



*Martin O'Malley, Governor*  
*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*  
*Joseph P. Gill, Secretary*  
*Frank W. Dawson III, Deputy Secretary*

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Meeting of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission  
July 22, 2014  
Tawes State Office building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### ***Summary of Motions & Actions***

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Chairman Bill Goldsborough, Vice Chair Dave Sikorski, Beverly Fleming, Ed O'Brien, Jim Gracie, Mark DeHoff, Micah Dammeyer, Phil Langley, Roger Trageser, Frank Tuma (for Tim Smith), Rachel Dean, Val Lynch, Vince Ringgold

**Commissioner Absent and Not Represented:** Kate Chaney, Ray Morgan, James Wommack

**DNR Staff Attending:** Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Don Cosden, Scott Knoche, Karen Knotts, Dave Goshorn, Joe Evans, Lynn Fegley, Jacob Holtz, Nancy Butowski, Lt. Beth Mauk, Gina Hunt, Alexi Sharov, Rich Norling, Rick Morin, Rich Norling, Mike Luisi

**Members of the Public Attending:** Larry Jennings, Ken Hastings, Ken Lewis, Ed Green, Brent Walls, Steve Linhard, Dave Sutherland

#### **Motions:**

- Motion by Jim Gracie, Seconded by Vice-Chair Dave Sikorski for SFAC to support the three Maryland Commissioners of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) that opposed shifting of recreational Striped Bass allocation to commercial at the last PRFC meeting. Those Commissioners are: Phil Langley, Dennis Fleming, and Tom O'Connell. No public comment, one abstention, no opposing: Motion Passed.
- Motion by Jim Gracie, Seconded by Micah Dammeyer to support Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) adoption of the new Upper Potomac River Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant permit with continuing monitoring and discussions with the Department of Natural Resources to ensure adequate protection to the river's fishery resources. No public comment, all in favor, no opposition: Motion Passed unanimously.

#### **Action Items:**

- Mallows Bay: SFAC will send a letter of support for designating Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary as long as it will not restrict current recreational fishing activities.
- Look into the development of a permanent display at Tawes to honor Dr. Torrey Brown.

- Develop an Invasive Crayfish fact sheet in electronic form for Commissioners to use to inform their respective organizations on the concerns and need for management action.
- Post electronic version of legislative ideas for the 2015 session. SFAC members should send ideas or suggestions for the 2015 session to Gina Hunt ([gina.hunt@maryland.gov](mailto:gina.hunt@maryland.gov))
- SFAC will support Upper Potomac River Keeper in effort to protect public's right for clean water. Brent Wills is invited to the Habitat Workgroup meetings to discuss concerns and efforts further. Don Cosden can provide monitoring data from wastewater discharge to SFAC.
- SFAC members need to provide comments on Summer Flounder & King/Spanish Mackerel FMP review by August 8<sup>th</sup> to Nancy Butowski, [nancy.butowski@maryland.gov](mailto:nancy.butowski@maryland.gov).

### **Summary of Discussion:**

- ❖ Chairman Bill Goldsborough opened the meeting with a note that a few Commissioners were unable to make it to tonight's meeting. Tim Smith's proxy, Frank Tuma is here. A reminder that shows how important it is to have a proxy to voice your opinion. Please appoint a proxy if you have not already. Tom O'Connell announced that Rachel Dean has been appointed as TFAC representative on SFAC.
- ❖ Follow-up announcements:
  - The Tournament Workgroup: a decision by the workgroup members to stay intake and hold off holding a meeting until needed. Jim Gracie would like to convene a meeting before the next crisis emerges. Bill Goldsborough suggested the workgroup develop draft objectives by the next Commission meeting. A follow-up e-mail will be sent.
  - Dr. Torrey Brown Recognition: The appointed committee (Ed O'Brien, Jim Gracie, Bill Goldsborough and Dave Sikorski drafted a tribute to Dr. Brown. Jim Gracie suggests the tribute be in a permanent display at Tawes and Tom O'Connell agreed that will be considered by the Department.
  - Mallows Bay: Ed O'Brien expressed concern about fishermen being affected by this sanctuary designation and that we should be cautious in making a recommendation. Roger Trageser believes that the area is guaranteed to enable recreational fishing. Jim Gracie suggested a letter of support as long as it will not restrict commercial or recreational fishing activities. (see action items)
- ❖ Public Comment – Ken Hastings discussed allocation policy: the PFRC attempted to obtain a shift in the recreational Striped Bass allocation for commercial use. The Yellow Perch Industry workgroup wants to catch the full commercial allocation. What are the goals for recreational fishery? There are no goals. He suggests it should be discussed at SFAC meeting. The SFAC/TFAC ad hoc Striped Bass meeting on 6/19 was not posted for the public to attend.

Bill Goldsborough stated that the Striped Bass allocation will be discussed during the meeting after the discussion of the ASMFC Striped Bass addendum, as discussed at the last meeting. Vince Ringgold withdrew the request that SFAC hold a discussion on allocation.

Yellow Perch is on the agenda for the TFAC meeting to be held on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Jim Gracie would like the Yellow Perch FMP process be the driver of allocation review. Tom O'Connell mentioned that one item under the discussion of Scoping is to extend the season to allow opportunity to harvest the commercial allocation.

- ❖ Lt. Beth Mauk gave the NRP report. There is a lot of activity on the Upper Eastern Shore and a lot of recreational Striped Bass citations.
- ❖ Jacob Holtz reviewed scoping and regulatory updates. See handout.

Crayfish scoping item – prohibit statewide catch or possession of crayfish in Maryland (invasive specie). There needs to be more than website scoping. There may be an open house or Survey Monkey initiated. SFAC should reach out to your respective organizations. Jim Gracie suggested an electronic fact sheet be developed. (See action items) Dave Sikorski noted to be aware that there may be potential commercial fishery for crayfish. Jim Gracie mentioned that August and September are not good months for scoping trout related items and maybe it should be done January-April 1 and suggests that it be postponed for one year. Jim also expressed concerns with staggered openings. Don Cosden said that the Survey Monkey could address this concern.

No SFAC member attended the Penalty Workgroup meeting in June.

- ❖ Gina Hunt discussed legislation ideas for the 2015 Session. These items might include: Tax credit for dam removal, 365 Day Sport Fishing License, Public Notice Authority – Commissioners need to talk with their organizations. The next Public Notice meeting is in August. There will be no bill unless all on the workgroup agree. A voluntary Fisheries Habitat Stamp may be established to benefit oyster restoration and should be available to anyone regardless of residency. Mark De Hoff asked if the revenue would be earmarked (yes). Jim Gracie suggested that a tax credit formula be discussed for relieving the thermal pollution created by a fish blockage.
- ❖ Don Cosden discussed wastewater discharge in the Upper Potomac River along with Brent Wills, UPR Water Keeper. (See action items and motion)
- ❖ Nancy Butowski presented the Summer Flounder and Spanish/King Mackerel FMP Reviews. Summer Flounder Fisheries Service Plan Review Team (FS PRT) conclusions:  
SF FMP & Amendment #1 remain an appropriate framework  
Recommend next review when the MAFMC/ASMFC has completed their extensive review (tentatively scheduled for 2017)  
Spanish/King Mackerel Fisheries Service Plan Review Team (FS PRT)  
K/SM FMP remains an appropriate framework  
Recommends the plan be incorporated by reference into Maryland regulation
- ❖ Tom O'Connell discussed the Summer Agenda for the ASMFC. Striped Bass Management Draft Addendum to be discussed. See document on website. The Striped Bass Advisory Panel members from Maryland are Ed O'Brien and Dave Sikorski. Discussion: Frank Tuma - consistency over the three years is important, better than fluctuations in creel limits and sizes. Val Lynch – two fish creel limit better over three years. Vince Ringgold – supports maintaining a two fish creel in the Bay and asked what happens after three years? Tom O'Connell – re-assessment. Phil Langley – when can we have Chesapeake Bay Reference Points? Tom O'Connell – The technical committee may have them by the end of this year, which would be too late for the current addendum, so a new addendum would be needed if ASMFC

chose to adopt them. Beverly Fleming – recommends one fish and no change in seasons and size (28”) is best for coastal. Mark DeHoff – recommends two fish in Bay and recreational slot limit in Ocean. Vince Ringgold – important to keep consistent in the next three year cycle, do not complicate it; don’t change seasons, sizes or creel; also noted the importance of habitat.

- ❖ Don Cosden presented the DNR Fisheries website interactive Fishing Access Map. It show public fishing access areas, boating access, parks, ramps, directions, descriptions, etc. Commissioners made recommendations for items that might be added i.e. links to weather, buoy locations, tides, and USGS stream gauges.
- ❖ Dave Sutherland of the Maryland Sportsmen’s Foundation provided a presentation of the Sportsmen’s Marketing Initiative. It is funded by a grant from DBED, Office of Tourism. Mr. Sutherland will be invited back to SFAC to give updates to the program.
- ❖ Steve Vilnit discussed a 50% discount on first time license buyers for those who have not purchased a license in the last three years. This will be marketed through social media, ad in Maryland Fishing Guide, handouts, and other ideas. This opportunity is provided by 2014 legislation and is a three year pilot program.
- ❖ Karen Knotts discussed the new Fishing Challenge Invasive Species Category. This includes: Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Snakehead – all of which must be dead. The rules were clarified to include “any legal recreational gear.” Bill Goldsborough stated that there are no objections from SFAC.
- ❖ Tom O’Connell discussed the Fisheries Habitat Workgroup update. It includes members from all of Fisheries advisory bodies. The group is energized and excited. Next meeting is in late August. They will have a visioning exercise opportunity for diverse groups to get behind a common issue.

**Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting:** None noted.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 2:00 to 5:00 in room C-1.**